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I, JANENE PEISKER, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2003906793 for a patent by DEBBI BILIA TEMOS as filed on 09 December 2003.

I further certify that the name of the applicant has been amended to DEBBI BILIA MATAXAS pursuant to the provisions of Section 104 of the Patents Act 1990.



WITNESS my hand this
Twenty-fourth day of December 2004

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Peisker'.

JANENE PEISKER
TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION
SUPPORT AND SALES

PORTABLE BATHING APPARATUS

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a portable bathing apparatus. This invention has particular but not exclusive application to a bathing apparatus having a receptacle for
5 bathing infants, and for illustrative purposes reference will be made to such application.

Background to the Invention

Persons often use large open topped containers for bathing infants and small
10 children. Alternatively, laundry washing tubs and such like are often used as a substitute.

In order to support the child and to prevent the child from placing its head under the water a sling may be provided consisting of a textile covering stretched between opposing members of a wire frame.

15 In some instances a syphon must be used to drain the bath water from the large container because often it is too heavy to handle.

Travelling with young children often means that the parents must take with them a baby's pram, a portable cot, change table, sufficient clothes for the child as well as a large container, syphon and sling for bathing the child. As a consequence
20 often there is little room left in the parent's car to carry other items including the parents clothing. Apparatus that may be used to bath children which is portable and which perhaps fulfils other functions would be most desirable.

The present invention aims to alleviate at least one of the above disadvantages and to provide a bathing apparatus that is reliable and efficient in use.

Summary of the Invention

With the foregoing and other aims which will be apparent from the following description in view, this invention relates to a bathing apparatus including:

- an open topped container for bathing liquids;
- 5 a lid adapted to close said container; and
- carry means associated with said container and/or said lid for carrying the apparatus.

Preferably the container includes drainage means that may be selectively closed by closure means and wherein liquids contained in said container may be
10 drained therefrom by opening said drainage means.

The container is preferably waterproof and of rigid or at least resilient construction. Accordingly the container may be made from a variety of materials including plastics materials. However, in other embodiments, the container may include a rigid frame that provides support for walls constructed from a textile or other
15 suitable flexible material.

Preferably the container is large enough that it may be used to bathe an infant or small child therein.

In one embodiment the container may be substantially box-like in shape. A top or bottom wall of the container may include a generally convex portion and/or raised
20 side portions and wherein use a child may be placed between said raised side portions when being changed, said side portions inhibiting the child from rolling off the top or bottom wall.

Suitably, a bottom interior surface of the container is contoured to support the child or infant in a reclining position. Most suitably the child's head is supported such
25 that the child's face is above the side walls of the container for improved safety.

The lid may be permanently or releasably attached to the container and like the container may be of rigid construction. For example, the lid may be hingedly connected to the container using one or more hinges. Alternatively, a plurality of snap fitting clips may be used to secure the detachable lid to the container.

5 In one embodiment, the lid may be the same size and dimensions as the container, alternatively the lid may be relatively shallow and the container relatively deep in comparison.

The top wall of the lid may include a generally convex portion and/or raised side portions and wherein use a child may be placed between said raised side portions when being changed, said side portions inhibiting the child from rolling off the top wall.

The apparatus may also include locking means which may be used to retain the lid in a closed position relative to the container.

15 The carry means may comprise a handle that is attached to either the container or the lid. The handle may be integrally formed with the either the container or the lid, or may be retractable within the apparatus. If required, the carry means may further comprise a flexible strap which a person may place over their shoulder.

The bathing apparatus suitably include rollable transport members, such as wheels or castors, wherein the apparatus may be conveniently wheeled when required to be moved between locations.

The drainage means may include an aperture formed in the container. For example, the aperture may be formed in a base wall of the container, or a side wall adjacent said base wall.

25 In one embodiment the aperture may be selectively closed by a suitably shaped plug.

The aperture may also include connection means which would facilitate the connection thereto of a hose which itself may include a valve assembly to selectively close same.

5 The bathing apparatus may also include a divider that is locatable between the open topped container and the lid so as to divide the chamber defined by said container and lid when closed. The divider may be used to separate wet clothing and towels, which could be stored in the container, from dry clothing and towels that may be stored within the confines of the lid.

10 The container and/or lid may also be used to store bathing products including soaps, shampoos, conditioners, moisturisers and talcum powder. Suitably, the divider may include a plurality of compartments for such storage purposes.

The apparatus may also include a mattress that is locatable within either the container or the lid, and wherein the apparatus may also be used as a portable cot or for changing purposes.

15

Brief Details of the Drawings

In order that this invention may be more easily understood and put into practical effect, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings which illustrate a preferred embodiment of the invention, wherein:

20 FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the bathing apparatus of a first embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a sectional side view of the bathing apparatus of the first embodiment showing internal structure;

FIG. 3 is a front view of the bathing apparatus of the first embodiment;

25 FIG. 4 is a rear view of the bathing apparatus of the first embodiment;

FIG. 5 is an exploded rear view of the mounting arrangement of a transportation member for the bathing apparatus;

FIG. 6 is an enlarged side view of the transportation member mounted on the bathing apparatus;

FIG. 7 is an exploded side view of the bathing apparatus of the first embodiment showing the internal components;

5 FIG. 8 is a side view of the bathing apparatus of a first embodiment in relation to an average baby; and

FIG. 9 is an exploded perspective view of the bathing apparatus and internal components.

10 Description of the Preferred Embodiment

The drawings illustrate various aspects of a bathing apparatus 10 that includes an open topped container or tub 11 that is selectively closed by a lid 12, which lid is selectively secured thereto by clasps or clips 35. In FIG. 1 the apparatus 10 is shown with the lid 12 secured to the container 11 with a telescopic handle 36 extended
15 ready for convenient grasping for movement by a parent 40.

The apparatus 10 of the embodiment, which is suited to an infant aged 3 to 5 months, is approximately 650 mm long and 300 mm wide. The receptacle formed by the interior of the container 11 varies in depth from approximately 200 mm deep at a foot end to only 40 mm at a head end, as illustrated in FIG. 8.

20 The container 11 is constructed from a rigid waterproof material, such as a plastics material which may be rotationally moulded to the desired shape. The container 11 includes an arcuate bottom wall 13, two opposing side walls 14 and two opposing end walls 15.

The apparatus 10 of the embodiment is provided with a pair of wheels 32 that
25 are located within complementary shaped recesses 33 provided in an end wall, suitably at the foot end of the container 11 as shown in FIGs 4 to 6.

The container also includes drainage means being an aperture 16 formed in one of the side walls 15, adjacent the bottom wall, see FIG 9. The aperture 15 is selectively closed by a removable plug (not shown).

5 The container 11 also includes a carry handle 22 that is integrally formed with a peripheral edge portion of a side wall 14. In the embodiment, a portion of the carry handle 22 is also formed on the lid 12.

One end wall of the container 11 optionally includes a pair of stopper portions 29 opposite to said wheels 32, which assist in supporting the bathing apparatus in an upright position when the lid 12 and container 11 are secured together for transport
10 (see FIG. 2).

The lid 12, like the container 11, is constructed from a moulded plastics material. The lid 12 includes a top wall 17 that consists of a concave central portion 18 located in between two opposing raised portions 19. The lid 12 also includes two opposing side walls 20 and two opposing end walls 21.

15 The lid 12 can be attached to the container 11 using snap fitting, plastics or metallic clips 35, which may be lockable as required.

The container 11 also includes a shoulder strap 23 that is preferably releasably attached to mountings 24 which are secured to respective end walls 15 of the apparatus. The effective length of the shoulder strap 23 is adjustable and can be
20 detached from the mountings 24 if so desired.

The bathing apparatus 10 also includes a divider 25 that is locatable between the open topped container and the lid so as to divide the chamber defined by said container and lid when closed. The divider 25 suitably includes a plurality of storage compartments 26.

The bathing apparatus may further include a rectangularly shaped foam padded change table or mattress 27 that is locatable within the confines of the upturned lid 12 and which may be stored within the lid. The mattress preferably rests upon a rectangularly shaped board 28 that is removably located inside the lid and
5 which itself rests upon the top wall 17.

Preferably a significant portion of the side and end walls 20 and 21 respectively of the lid extend above the mattress 27 and in use shall prevent an infant that is lying on the mattress from rolling out of the lid.

It will be appreciated that the lid 12 and storage compartments 26 may be
10 used to store a variety of goods, including infant bathing requisites, a pillow, baby clothes, toys and a hose 30 having a fitting 31 associated with one end thereof which may be used to selectively secure the hose to a water spout.

In use, the container 11 may be detached from the lid 12 and placed on its bottom wall 13. An auxiliary support member 34 is suitably provided for stabilising
15 the container in view of the greater mass of the infant being disposed at the head end of thereof, see FIG. 8. Most preferably, the bottom wall 13 of the container has a shape contoured to support the infant. In particular, the infant's face is supported above the periphery of the side walls 14 of the container 11.

The plug is preferably used to close the aperture 16 and wherein water from
20 the spout is conveyed into the container using the hose 30. Once sufficient water has been deposited into the container 11 so as to at least partially fill same, the water may be used to bathe an infant or small child 41.

Having bathed the infant or child, the dirty water may be removed from the container by removing the plug and allowing the water to pass through the open
25 aperture 16.

The inverted lid 12 may be used as a change table when drying and/or changing the child by placing the child on the mattress 27 located on the central portion 18, see FIG. 9.

It will be appreciated that the bathing receptacle 10 overcomes the need for a bath, change table, cot and possibly a suit case to carry infant requisites.

In another embodiment of the invention, the lid may be the same size and dimensions as the container. The lid may also include a rectangularly shaped flap that is releasably and hingedly attached to one of the side walls of the container. In use, the flap may be used to selectively close the interior of the lid. The flap can include a strap like handle. When the lid is used as a crib, it is preferred that the flap is removed.

It will of course be realised that the above has been given only by way of illustrative example of the present invention and that all such modifications and variations thereto as would be apparent to persons skilled in the art are deemed to fall within the broad scope and ambit of this invention as is herein described.

Dated this NINTH day of DECEMBER, 2003

DEBORAH BILIA TEMOS

20 By

PIZZEYS Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys

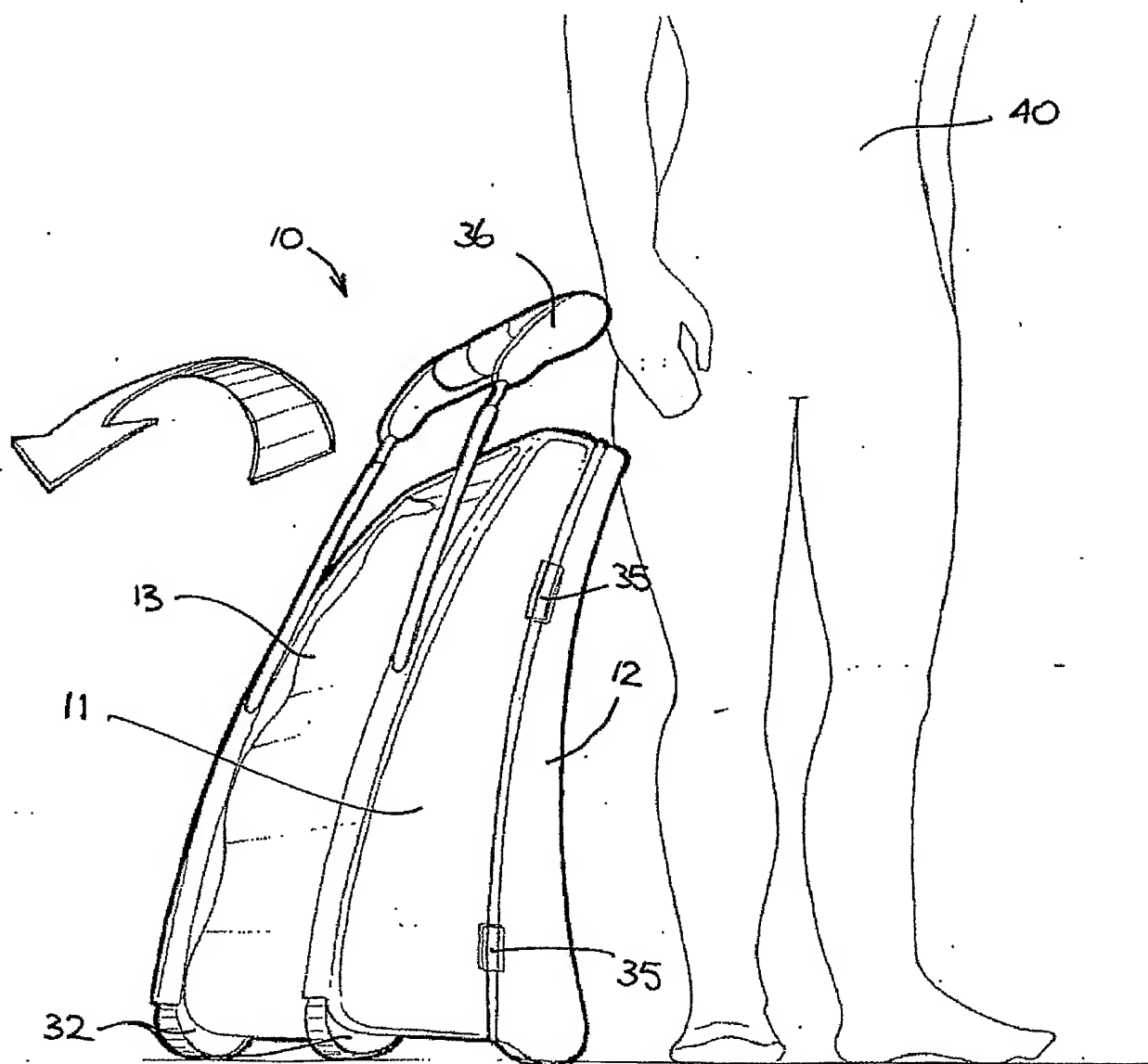


FIG. 1

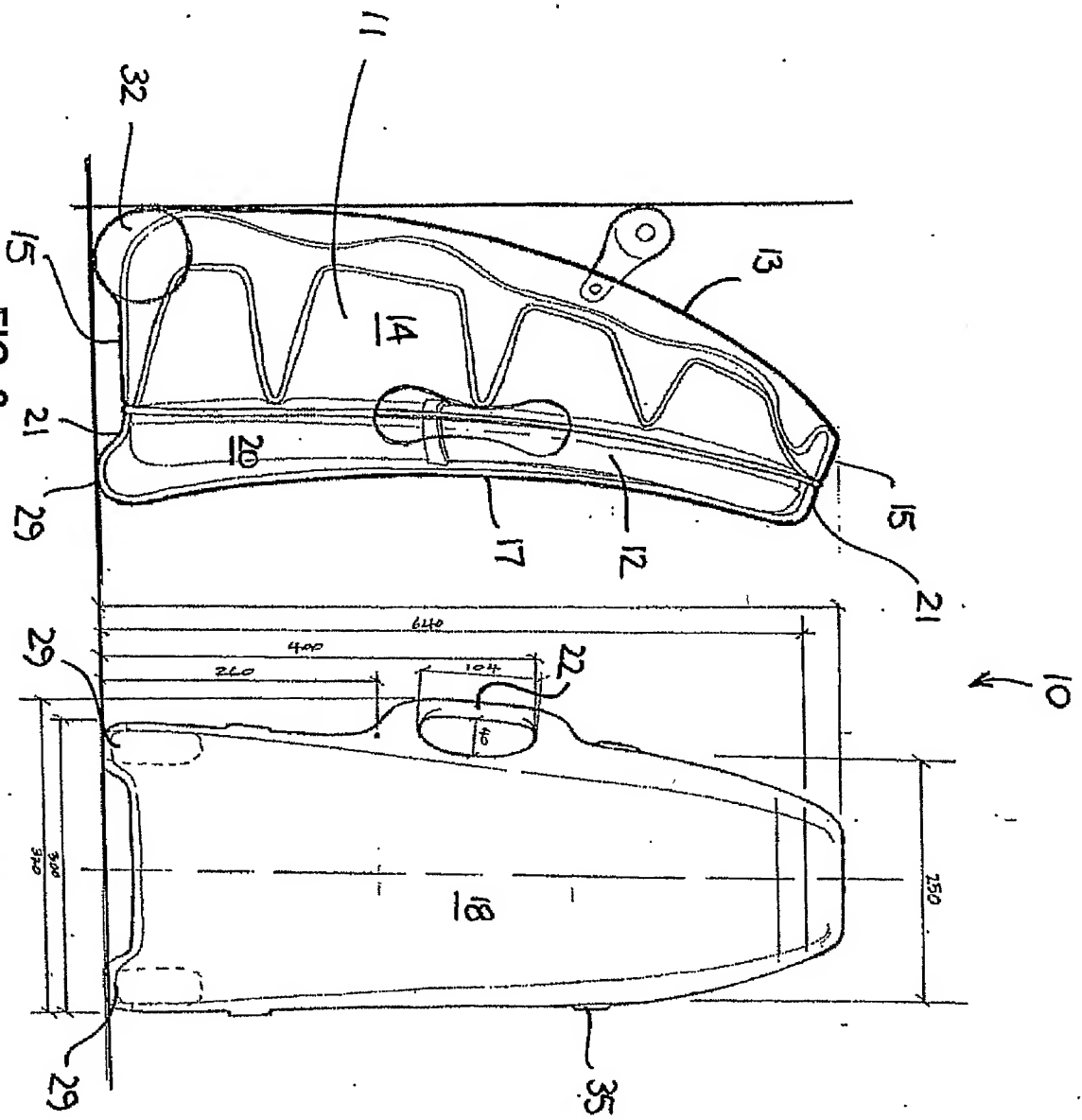


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

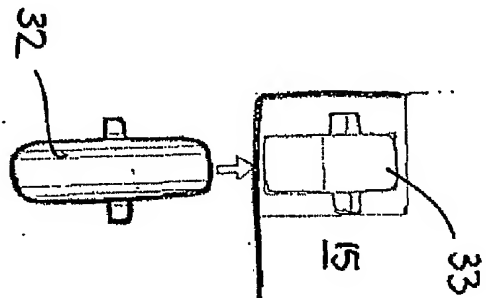


Fig. 5

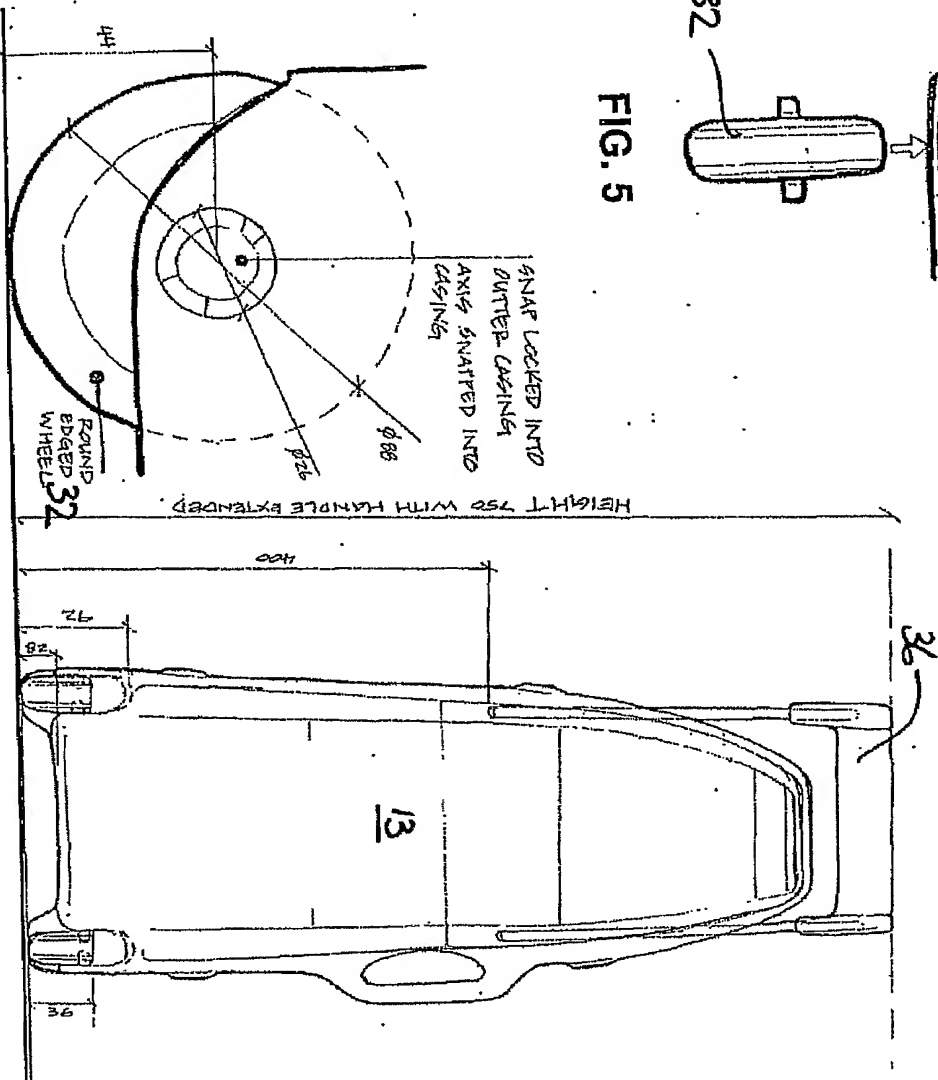
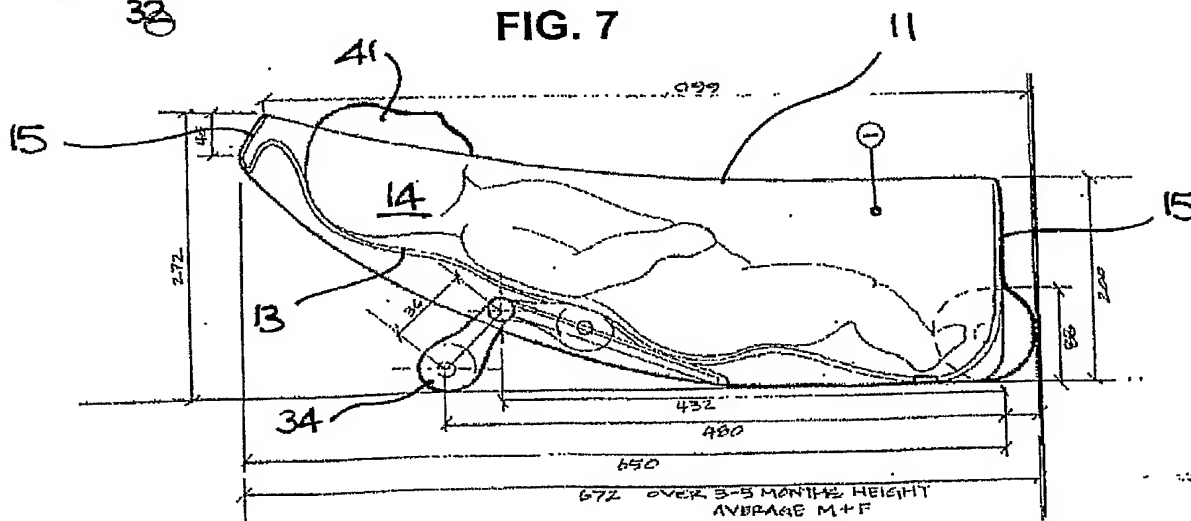
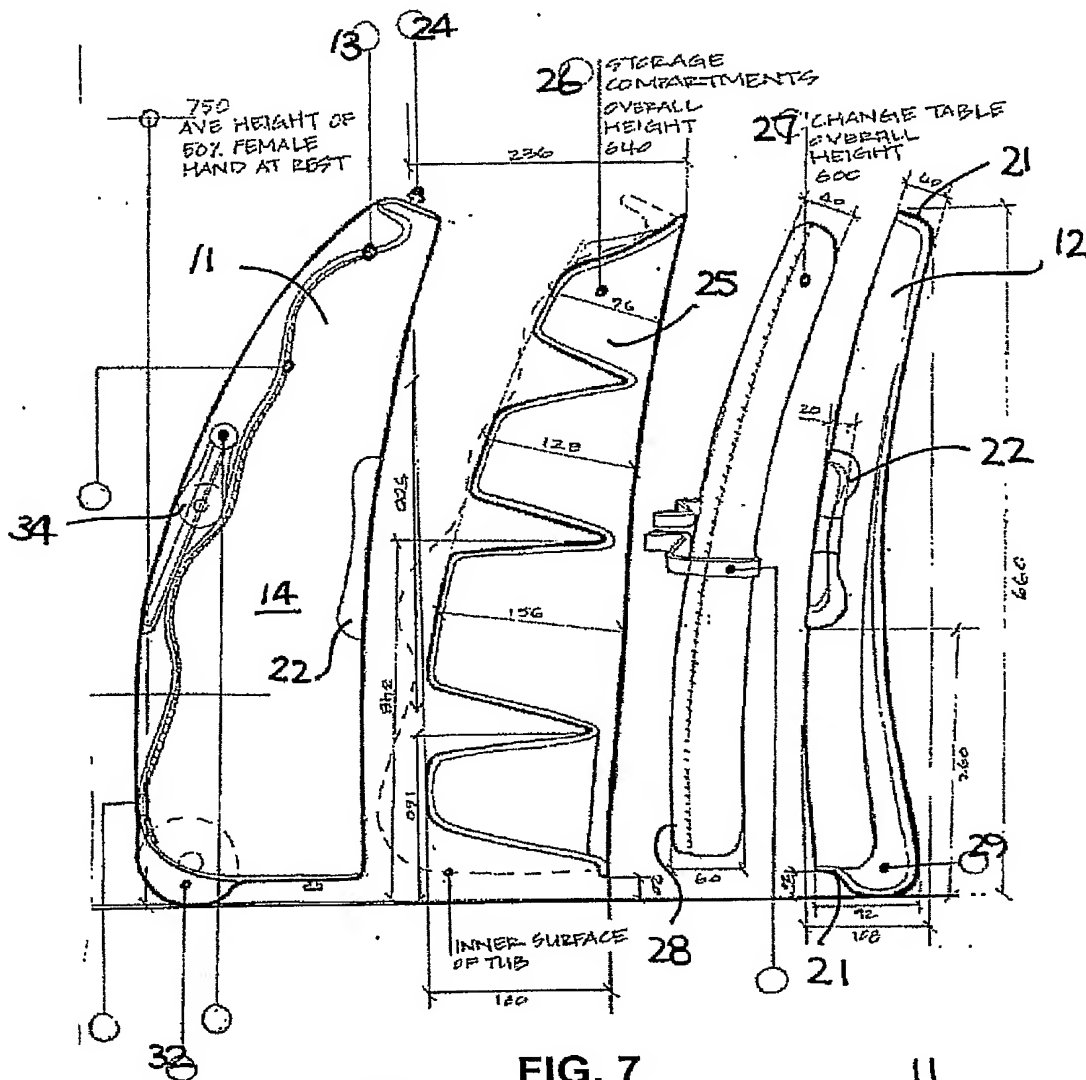


FIG. 6



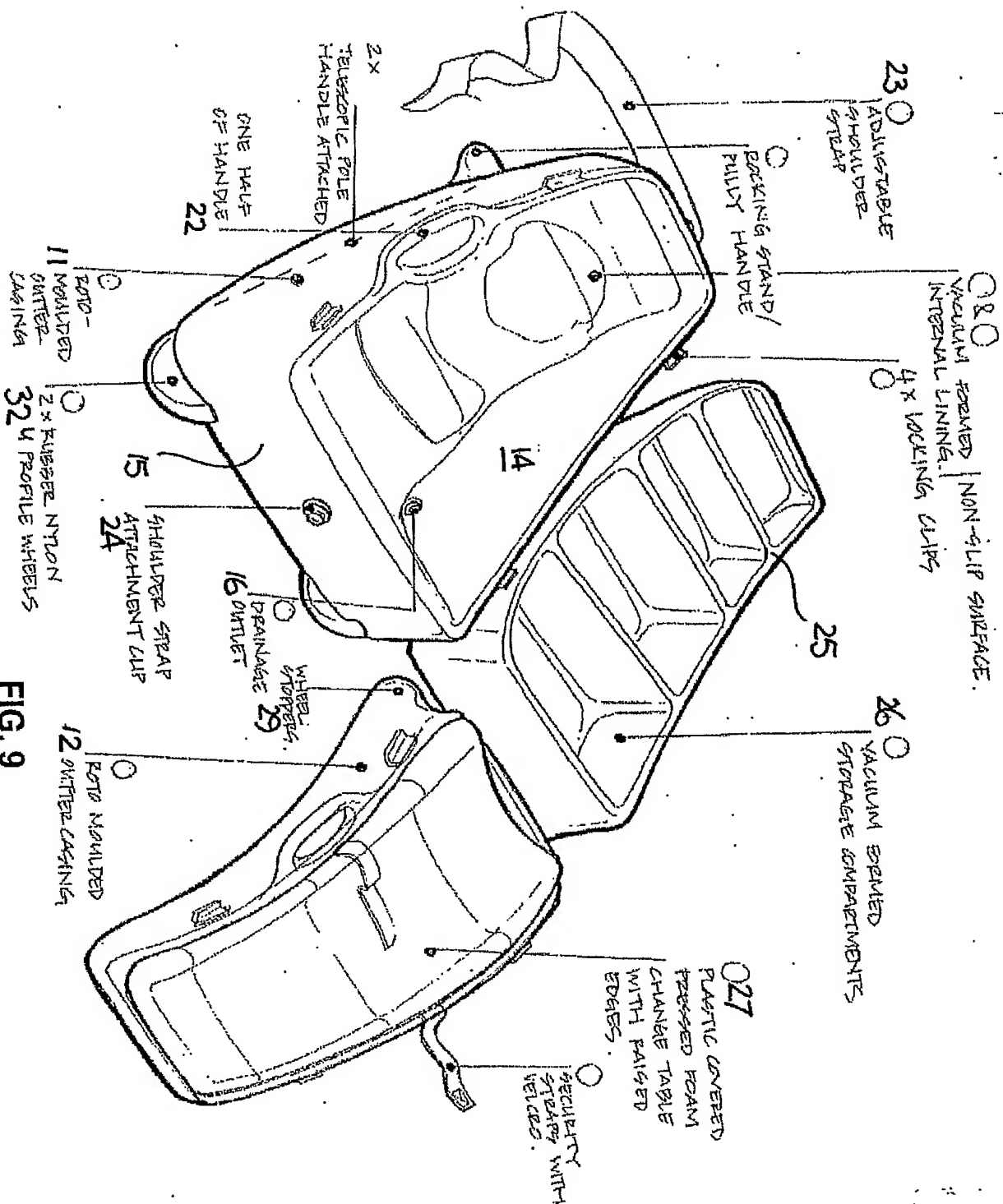


FIG. 9